The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor covering in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1884 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 20

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

Anti-Labor Bill Conferees May Drop Full Ban On Union Welfare Funds

Washington, D. C.—Indications here after the second meeting of Senate and House conference groups on anti-labor legislation were that the conferees would agree on abandonment of an outright ban on union health and welfare funds.

Though no "final decisions on anything were reached" at the second conference, Senator Taft of Ohio, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee and author of the Senate bill, expressed confidence that the principle ban on the union health and welfare funds, financed by employers, could be dropped by the House. It could be dropped. The bill passed by the Senate would only limit them, not administered by unions, but permit those directed jointly by union and employer.

Under this understanding, the fund collected by the United Mine Workers (AFL) would be permissible.

The Taft bill, approved by the Senate, 68 to 24, was somewhat milder than that passed by the House, 308 to 107, but contained many provisions deeply injurious to organized labor.

Discussing the tentative legislation which awaits Senate and House concurrence, President Truman told a news conference that he is sticking to the four points he outlined to Congress in his State of the Union message last January. These called for:

1. Prevention of some jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts.

2. Expansion of the Labor Department's mediation and conciliation services.

3. Creation of a commission to study the entire field of labor-management relations.

4. Broadening of the social security program to "alleviate the cause of workers' insecurity."

The Senate bill does nothing about the latter point. It covers the others, but not in all cases the way the President suggested.

For example, Mr. Truman wants an expanded conciliation service within the Labor Department. The Senate bill divorces the service from the department.

The Senate bill would give the Federal Government the right by injunction to ban "national paralysis-strikes regarded as threatening the country's welfare. It would prohibit jurisdictional strikes, secondary boycotts and the closed shop and restrict the union shop.

The major differences between the House and Senate bills are:

1. The House bill substantially prohibits industry-wide bargaining. The Senate bill doesn't touch this subject.

2. Private employers, under the House bill, would be permitted to obtain injunctions against unions for various harmful secondary activities" such as secondary boycotts and jurisdictional disputes. The Senate bill no one would permit private use of the injunction, although unions could be sued for simple damages for jurisdictional strikes and boycotts.

3. The House bill would impose upon the union shop very many restrictions not carried in the Senate bill.

4. The House bill, unlike the Senate bill, enters deeply into the internal union regulation.

5. The National Labor Relations Board would be abolished under the House bill.

6. Every strike would be made illegal under terms of the House bill unless the majority of the affected employees voted for it in a "right-ly prescribed manner. The Senate bill would place no limitations on the right to strike save in so-called "public interest" disputes.

Features common to both measures, although not identical in all details, include the outlawing of the closed shop, withdrawal of aid to national unions with officers who are Communists, and the right of Government injunctions in "public interest" strikes. Amendments to the Taft proposals come from the Labor Department, establishment of "unfair labor practices" for unions, guaranteeing "free speech" to employers.

The measure approved by the House would also:

1. Establishment of a long list of unlawful concerted activities by unions.

2. Place unions under the anti-trust laws.

3. Declare mass picketing illegal.

4. Ban political contributions by unions in national elections or primaries.

5. Make unlawful a strike or an "encouragement to strike" by Federal employes.

May 19, 1947

TO ALL UNIONS:

On April 17, 1947, the House of Representatives by a vote of 308 to 107 adopted the Hartley Bill and on May 13, 1947, the Senate by a vote of 68 to 24 adopted the Taft Bill.

Both of these bills have been, are and will be opposed by the Labor Movement and by all right-thinking Americans.

These two bills are now referred to a conference committee of both Houses of Congress to attempt to harmonize the difference between the provisions thereof, and report to both Houses one bill for adoption or rejection and, if adopted by both Houses by majority vote of each House, then referred to the President who must within ten legislative days approve or veto the bill, or after ten such days it becomes a law.

It is estimated the Conference Committee will report a bill in about a week or about May 28, 1947.

The efforts of the proponents of the Taft-Hartley bills now are to get a bill reported by the conference and passed by both Houses of Congress by such large majorities that the President will not dare to veto the same. It is the hope of the proponents that they can pass this legislation over a veto of the President, should the final conference bill be vetoed.

To defeat the conference report in the House a majority must vote "No." The membership of the House is 435 and if all members are present and voting at least 218 will have to vote "No." Only 107 voted "No" on April 17, 1947.

If the President vetoes the bill that veto can be overridden in the Senate only if two-thirds of the membership present and voting vote against the position taken by the President, thus at least 16 members of the House must vote to support the President's veto.

In the Senate there are now 95 members and to defeat the Conference Report or override a Presidential "No," at least if there is a Presidential veto, same will be overridden if 64 or more Senators vote to override such veto. To sustain a veto at least 32 Senators must vote to sustain.

In event of a Presidential veto, the bill is defeated unless two-thirds or more of the members of both the House and Senate present and voting vote to override the veto. If either House fails by at least a two-third majority to vote to override the veto, the bill is defeated.

To insure that a Presidential veto is sustained, at least one-third of either House of Congress must vote to sustain the veto, that is at least 32 Senators or at least 146 Representatives. Only 24 Senators voted to sustain Presidential vetoes against this legislation on passage in each House.

This is the most important issue before the Trade Union Movement today. Those who are behind this drive are determined, vicious and powerful and unless they are defeated they will succeed in inflicting serious injury, if not practical destruction, on the Free Trade Union Movement and untold damage on the people generally.

After fully considering the situation as it exists we strongly recommend:

1. That all officers of all affiliated and cooperating organizations be immediately assigned to and directed to get each individual member to write a letter to their Senators, Representatives, and the President stating in his own words his views regarding defeating the Conference Report, Presidential veto and sustaining such veto.

2. Resolutions, petitions, telegrams, letters by any officer will not be helpful letters in each member's own words will have full effect.

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM GREEN, President.
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer.
American Federation of Labor.

Green Urges Every Union To Back Bond Campaign

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green has advised officers of national and international unions, State Federations of Labor and city central bodies that he has endorsed the U. S. Treasury Department it can rely on full support of the members of the American Federation of Labor in the June-July campaign to stimulate the sale of U. S. Savings Bonds.

In his message to all groups, calling for cooperation, Mr. Green said:

"The interest and cooperation of all affiliated organizations of the American Federation of Labor are earnestly solicited in the forthcoming Treasury promotion. I am certain that all affiliated organizations of the Federation will continue to support the Savings Bonds program during this drive and thereafter with the same effort and enthusiasm as in the past.

"I would like, on this occasion, to call to your attention the excellent work performed along these lines by the Los Angeles Industrial Union Council. The Los Angeles central body cooperated with it, and the Thrift Program and published and distributed 'Labor and Thrift,' a booklet stressing the importance of saving money. Labor, in line with the Treasury's program, I believe that the booklet of the Los Angeles central body is an excellent model, which could easily be adapted to suit local situations by other central bodies throughout the Nation."

Locomotive Firemen, Enginemen Give $15,000 to Aid Union Fight

Washington, D. C.—Deep appreciation was expressed by AFL President William Green to D. B. Robertson, President of Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, of Cleveland, for a $15,000 check received recently to aid the fight of organized labor against anti-labor legislation.

Mr. Green, particularly impressed because the Brotherhood is not an affiliate of the AFL, told Mr. Robertson:

"I cannot find language which would adequately express my thanks to you for the timely check which came to the American Federation of Labor amounting to $15,000 as a contribution to the educational and publicity fund in opposition to the enactment of vicious anti-labor legislation.

"Your name must be interpreted as evidence of your recognition of the fact that the attitude which you hold toward the membership of the American Federation of Labor is correct.

"Be assured the seven and a half million members of the Federation will be fully informed of the truly splendid response which is evidenced through your contribution.

"Thanking you again and for the millions of members of the Federation, I am sure, for assistance in addition to the enactment of anti-labor legislation."

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL FIRMS SHOW BIG PROFIT RISE

New York City—A survey by the Wall Street Journal reveals that profits of 24 major industrial firms in the first three months of this year averaged 36.5 percent over their profits for the same period in 1946.

The study, covering 11 industrial groups, included the largest and most representative companies of industry, showed some profit increases as high as 370 percent.

Seven railway equipment companies, for example, jumped their profits 357.3 percent and came to the second highest on the increase list while 21 building material and equipment firms increased their take by 235.9 percent. Nine pulp and paper products companies managed to boost their profits more than 187 percent, thanks in part to a newsprint shortage.

The iron and steel industry's profits totaled $168,671,681 for the first three months of this year as compared to $22,462,107 last year. The railway equipment take jumped from $1,617,264 to $7,396,757, while the building material and equipment firms made $29,546,899, compared to last year's $8,301,672.

MARGARET TRUMAN JOINS AFL UNION

Washington, D. C.—Margaret Truman, daughter of the President, has joined the American Federation of Labor. She is reported to be the first member of a White House family to ever join a union card.

As a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists, affiliated with the Actors and Artists of America (AFL), Miss Truman's appearances as a concert singer will be governed throughout the country will protect her from unfair competition by labor angle. She will be given by the guild's Chicago office and clinics, stagehands and electricians wherever she appears.

Miss Truman made her initial appearance in a broadcast from Detroit March 16 and is slated to appear soon in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Dallas, Fort Worth, Amarillo, Oklahoma City and perhaps other cities.

Miss Truman's initial appearance in Pittsburgh was cancelled by the grave illness of her grandmother.

Green Pledges AFL Support In Drive For Jewish Homeland In Palestine

Atlantic City.—A firm pledge that the American Federation of Labor will fully support efforts of the United Jewish Emergency Conference for Palestine to induce British to carry out the terms of a new homeland in Palestine for Jews was made by AFL President William Green.

Addressing the Conference at a meeting here, Mr. Green declared that the time has come for a peaceful settlement of the Palestine situation. He said "just decency" and the future of "half a million tortured souls imprisoned in displaced persons' camps of Europe."

Mr. Green told the delegates to the conference meeting, "is a glorious and inspiring chapter in world history. It is a passionate struggle which has aroused the sympathies of those of us to whom democracy means justice for the oppressed and the weak. With patience and dignity and with unwavering courage, you have challenged those forces which seek to make your people a pawn for unscrupulous purposes. Your unfaltering determination proves that man will never be enslaved, not with the quest for freedom ever ceases.

"Shamefully condemning Britain for 'delaying tactics and diplomatic maneuvering' on the Palestine issue, Mr. Green declared that the major power at this time is the United Nations Organization. Asserting that Britain still has the opportunity to act, despite consideration of the issue by the UNO, Mr. Green said that the "wait, wait" slogan of the British carries little comfort to those who seek to establish a national Jewish homeland in Palestine.

"Certainly," he declared, "those 100,000 Jewish settlers could be admitted to Palestine annually—a proposal officially supported by the United States "which has never failed to respond to appeals for aid in time of need."

"I appeal to the British Government," he added, "to rise to the heights of statesmanship and to render justice to a people to whom it has been so long withheld. The highest principle above expediency, by repeated pronouncements, is one of the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and justice. Today it would carry far more in character and lasting respect with all the freedom-loving people of the world, than she can possibly gain by any of her diplomatic maneuvers. If Great Britain will but do what justice requires and what she requires her to do and permits a sufficient number of Jews to establish immigration, she can count upon the United States and the other free nations of the world to back her up in any eventuality. Public opinion once again be on her side and public faith in the devotion of Britain to the cause of justice will be restored.

"The American Federation of Labor wants to make it clear to its friends in Great Britain that it stands first with the Palestine Federation of Labor, the Histradut, at this moment. Histradut has assumed the major share of responsibility for the care of refugees who enter Palestine. Histradut's membership includes 70,000 workers through laborowned cooperatives which touch every phase of Palestine life. Histradut is the one great democratic force in the Near East which is the hope of any future development in the Near East comparable as we in America understand it. Histradut stands for democracy and social advancement in Palestine, an ideal which merits the moral and financial support of American labor."

TEXTILE WORKERS GAIN

Boston, Mass.—Wage increases of nine cents an hour across-the-board have been granted employes of the D. W. Gerald Co. here. The raise is retroactive two months and lifts the rate to $1.16 an hour. The employes are members of the United Textile Workers (AFL).

COAL-CORE TRUCKERS RAISED

Rochester, N. Y.—Coal and coke truckmen, members of the Coal and Coke Drivers' Union (AFL), have reached a new wage agreement with dealers here, giving union members a wage increase of 6½ cents an hour. The boost brings the hourly rate of drivers and yardmen to $1.15.

National Insurance Program Urged On Congress By Truman

AFL Coast-to-Coast Radio Schedule

Day	Time	Network	Program
Every Thursday	9:30 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	★★★★★ 5-Star Variety-Show From Hollywood
Daily (except Sat. & Sun.)	3:45 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	New Radio Drama With Stars from Stage and Screen
Every Sunday	1:30 P. M. E.D.T.	Mutual	★★★★★ Repeat Performance Of 5-Star Variety Show
Every Tuesday	8:15 P. M. E.D.T.	ABC	Talks By Outstanding Speakers
May 22	10:45 P. M. E.D.T.	NBC	George Meany
May 28	10:30 P. M. E.D.T.	Mutual	William Green

NOTE! Please check radio listings in your local newspaper for time of broadcasts. All times given above are Eastern Daylight Time.

AFL's Movie Unions Agree to Draft Plan for Ending Jurisdictional Strife

Washington, D. C.—Decision to draft a plan under which jurisdictional conflicts can be barred permanently in the Hollywood area was reached unanimously here at a conference in AFL headquarters by representatives of affiliated unions with members employed by the motion picture industry.

Presidents of five national and international unions were appointed by the conference as a committee to work out this four-fold assignment:

1. To study all phases of the jurisdictional questions involved in the motion picture industry.

2. To analyze the causes of disputes among unions representing workers employed at the studios.

3. To draft a plan providing for the peaceful settlement of all future disputes which would eliminate any possibility of strikes for jurisdictional reasons in the studios.

To submit this plan, when drafted, for the approval of all national and international unions which have members employed in the studios.

The committee presidents made up the special committee are the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Alliance of Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, and the Screen Actors Guild and Screen Actors of America.

The committee held its first meeting immediately after the adjournment of the two-day conference.

AFL President William Green, who presided over the conference, said:

"The special committee will proceed immediately to carry out the decision of the conference. We had a thorough discussion at the conference of all the jurisdictional problems involved in the motion picture industry.

"It was unanimously decided that the time has come for action which will effectively prevent any further jurisdictional strikes in the Hollywood studios. The union representatives in attendance showed a fine spirit of cooperation at the end for such action. In view of their unanimous decision to find a plan to settle jurisdictional difficulties, I feel that a great step in progress already has been accomplished."

Zander Regards Anti-Union Bills Worse Than Argentine Legislation

Harrisburg, Pa.—Warning that anti-labor legislation in effect in Argentina is even less severe than that which the House and Senate are now upon American labor was sounded by Harold S. Zander, International President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL).

Addressing the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor here, Mr. Zander vigorously attacked programs of private utilities their associations and monopolistic activities.

"The fact that franchises to do business without competition are granted in Argentina, but can be rarely are taken over by the people by legislation that such action could be taken, Mr. Zander told the convention that met last night conflict "with our advocacy of free enterprise, but I do not think it does," He added:

"In Argentina and February of this year a delegation representing the American Federation of Labor and the Railway Labor Executives Association visited Argentina. I was there in Argentina for three weeks. We saw there what happens when government regulates unions. The similar devices they use to control the organized labor movement down there are the identical devices.

"They start with the registration of unions and the requirement that unions make reports to government agencies That is the simple means they utilize to get control of labor. Argentina has bent and warped and twisted organized labor to the point of total ends Recognition which government grants to unions can be withdrawn By withdrawing such recognition from one union and giving it to another, government unions are made the obedient servants of government.

"The labor bill passed by the House of Representatives goes beyond what was done in Argentina We must fight it. We must fight it with aggressive or we may anticipate going the way they are going in Argentina."

Kin of 1,200 Miners To Be Paid Benefits Aggregating $1,250,000

Scranton, Pa.—The next of kin of the 1,250 anthracite mine workers who have died since June 1, 1946, will receive a total of $1,250,000. Each beneficiary will receive $1,000, paid by the trustees of the Anthracite Health and Welfare Fund.

To be eligible for the $1,000 payment, a beneficiary must, at the time of his death, have been a member of the United Mine Workers (AFL) and in Districts Nos. 1, 7 or 9. The Fund's records show that each of the 1,250 victims of mine accidents or the Nottingham mine of the Glen Alden Coal Co., Nanticoke, Pa., Jan. 16, and widows of the men killed in explosion at the Pardeesville mine of the Pancetti Coal Co., Exeter, Pa., April 10, 1947, based.

Payments shall be made to surviving beneficiaries in this order: (1) widow, (2) surviving children, (3) surviving parents, (4) surviving brothers and sisters, (5) executors and administrators, or to persons as determined by the trustees.

An announcement of the decision to pay $1,000 to the next of kin was made by Thomas Kennedy, Hazleton, international secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers (AFL), John O'Leary, Washington, vice president, and Joseph E. Moore and Harry Bittley, Clarks Summit, president of the Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre districts.

The three comprise the fund's board of trustees. Bittley is the operators' representative on the board.

CANNERS GRANT INCREASES

San Francisco, Calif.—A new contract between the State Council of Cannery Workers (AFL) and the California Processors & Growers, provides for 11½ cents to 16½ cents hourly increases. This contract covers 60,000 northern California workers.

ILGWU WINS RAISE

Union City, N. J.—The Rose Marie Co. employes, members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (AFL), have won a 10 percent across-the-board wage increase, a decrease of hours of the workweek from 40 to 37 hours, and a closed shop.

President Appeals For Early Action On 5-Point Plan

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has issued an urgent appeal to Congress to give "immediate attention" to legislation providing Nation-wide health and disability programs.

Emphasizing that national health insurance is the "heart" of a worthwhile health program, the President, at Grandview, Mo., where he has been keeping vigil at the bedside of his grandsonly ill mother, wrote to Congress that the Nation "cannot reserve a chance for good health and a long, productive life to the well-to-do alone."

He presented a five-point program, reiterating his previous plea for health insurance and embracing:

1. Adequate public health services, including expansion of medical and child health programs.

2. Additional medical research and medical education.

3. More hospitals and more doctors in all areas of the country where they are needed.

4. Insurance against the costs of medical care (including dental care).

5. Protection against loss of earnings during illness.

"This program has virtually identical in every detail with that endorsed by the Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor in Chicago in December, 1945, which the AFL has long been struggling.

Immediate consideration of such a plan in both branches of Congress simultaneously were prepared to offer legislation at once to put the program into effect.

The President stressed that the country could not afford at any time to lose the productive energies of its citizens.

"Until national health insurance is a part of our national fabric, we shall be wasting our most precious national resource and shall be perpetuating unnecessary misery and human suffering," the Chief Executive asserted.

Only by insurance, he said, can the ill-timed, would it be possible to place the cost of illness where it must be—on the backs of all people, and for that reason it is the most democratic and realistic way of coping with the menace of serious illness.

Medical care is at present too costly for many people, "entirely self-supporting in every other country the President pointed out. In fact, he believes that everybody might be stricken at one time or another with an illness that wouldn't be met. But if the cost were spread among a large group—as in the people—no one person would be overburdened.

More important, if the cost is spread in this manner more people can seek their doctors and will see them earlier.

The President emphasized that under the program he proposed patients would be free to select their own doctors as they are today, and doctors and hospitals could decide for themselves whether they want to take part in the plan. Also, Congress intended that the plan be administered through state and local agencies, "adapted to the particular needs and educational standards."

Mr. Truman said that since he made his original request for health insurance legislation in 1945, "important advances" had been made. He referred to the fact that the 80th Congress expanding maternal and child health services under the Social Security Act. But present facilities fall far short of needs today, and doctors and hospitals could decide for themselves whether they want to take part in the plan. Also, Congress intended that the plan be administered through state and local agencies, "adapted to the particular needs and educational standards."

Mr. Truman said that since he made his original request for health insurance legislation in 1945, "important advances" had been made. He referred to the fact that the 80th Congress expanding maternal and child health services under the Social Security Act. But present facilities fall far short of needs today, and counties with insufficient funds to maintain health services at adequate level.

Referring to the shortage of doctors in some regions, particularly rural communities, Mr. Truman asserted that an insurance plan would help to correct maldistribution of doctors, dentists and nurses.

The plan he set assists the patient's ability to pay for the services of physicians or dentists, or for hospital care, determines the distribution of medical personnel and facilities," he observed. "Few doctors can be expected to practice today in sparsely settled areas or where prospective patients have little ability to pay for their services. * * * The unequal distribution of doctors and hospitals will plague this nation until means are found to insure adequate medical care for all of our people."

Under the insurance system, the President declared, should include provisions for safeguarding patients to protect the people against loss of earnings due to illness or disability not connected with their work.

TRANSPORT WORKERS RAISED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—After a meeting of telephone negotiations here, a strike was averted 15 minutes before the non-hour deadline and employees of two Pittsburgh lines of the Blue Ridge Transportation Co. won a 15-cent across-the-board hourly wage increase. The employes are members of the Motor Coach Employes, Division 1063 (AFL).

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Three Senators Express Fervent Hope Of Labor Bill Veto In Radio Talks

Washington, D. C.—Three members of the United States Senate, sharply assailing the anti-labor bills approved by the House and Senate, joined in a radio discussion of the proposed legislation and expressed fervent hope that President Truman would veto the compromise bill being framed by a Conference Committee.

In a Nation-wide broadcast over the facilities of the American Broadcasting System, Senators Magnuson of Washington, Johnston of South Carolina and Green of Rhode Island warned that the proposed bills would wreck labor-management relations, destroy hopes of an improved living standard for the American worker and seriously threaten plans for improved levels of production.

Senator Magnuson told the Nation:

"Labor bills have been passed by both the House and Senate. I firmly believe that Congress has overshot the target, and that what now is proposed, would lead us not toward that goal we seek but rather into a new era of turmoil and strife between employer and employe.

"The proposed bill strikes at the heart of the security of working men and women.

"Legislation to outlaw the closed shop would be to deprive the right of liberty of contract without due process of law, in violation of the fifth amendment to the Constitution.

"In reference to health and welfare funds, the Senate bill would subject persons to penalties up to $10,000 fines or one year's imprisonment for failure to comply with certain provisions affecting welfare funds. Yet such plans have been working successfully for several years, and now cover an estimated 1,500,000 workers.

"The American people want fairness in the handling of labor issues. I believe they want to see this 'runaway' legislation halted before our economic applecart is upset and untold thousands of honest and willing workers are hurt in the smashup.

Senator Johnston declared:

"It is my sincere conviction that we shall find the pudding in this case full of seeds—seeds of unrest, discontent and strife.

"The Congress of the United States can never afford to be a punitive body and we step out of character when we assume a punitive role. We must legislate wisely and prudently. By the enactment of difficult, unworkable law, we only add to the existing confusion.

"No one can impute to the rank and file of American labor—organized or unorganized—any lack of patriotism or contempt for duly constituted authority. We should not, we must not, try to punish all members of any group because of abuses by a few isolated individuals. We should segregate the law violators and punish them through the courts.

"We cannot in the Congress attempt to draft management-labor contracts. That is a job to be accomplished across the thousands of conference tables, without compulsion or undue restraint on either party.

"I truly hope the President, in his wisdom and with his superior knowledge of the over-all situation, will see fit to veto this bill."

Senator Green asserted:

"My colleagues and I oppose passage of the Taft-Hartley anti-labor bill because we can foresee all too clearly that this legislation will do—not merely to labor, but to all the American people—the farmer, the doctor, the housewife. None can escape its disastrous consequences. And inevitably, of course, these same effects will spread throughout the world. This single piece of legislation alone is enough to precipitate a major world-wide economic depression.

"Let's take a look at what will happen if the anti-labor bill becomes law. First, wages will be cut—major cuts in many instances, minor slashings in others. Not even the National Association of Manufacturers, which is the real sponsor of this legislation, will deny that the present high standard of wages in the United States was won—after many battles—by American workers through their trade unions. Now Mr. Taft and Mr. Hartley are proposing to destroy these unions—and with their destruction the incomes of many millions of Americans will automatically drop.

"Restrictive legislation as proposed by the Taft-Hartley bill will only promote more ill feeling, more distrust.

"Labor and management are having their post-war readjustments to make just as families have their own personal readjustment to make. Let us help make these adjustments easier instead of passing a bill which will restrict free labor and hinder free enterprise."

MACHINISTS VOTE IN JUNE ON AFL REAFFILIATION

Washington, D. C.—Return of the International Association of Machinists to the American Federation of Labor will be determined by a referendum beginning June 1 and continuing throughout the month.

Officials of the Machinists announced that the ballot will be a "yes" or "no" proposition, with the issue centered on whether or not the Machinists desire to return to the AFL under conditions drawn up by the IMA sub-committee and the Executive Council of the AFL.

These conditions, as outlined by AFL President William Green, following a recent meeting of the Council, provide:

Withdrawal of a letter by President Green vesting jurisdiction in the Operating Engineers union over trial runs of new ships, a jurisdiction claimed by the machinists.

Notification of the AFL building trades department, by the Executive Council that it may not make a decision in a jurisdictional dispute between a union which is in that department and a non-member, such as the machinists. (Settlement of such disputes would be left to the AFL Executive Council.)

SALTONSTALL DEPLORES SCARCITY OF TEACHERS

Milwaukee, Wis.—Because of inadequate salaries, there are 100,000 teacher vacancies in the nation's public schools, according to Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican, of Massachusetts. He declared that there was "a growing Governmental concern for improved health standards for our youth," adding:

"Together with several of my colleagues two days ago I introduced a national school services health bill which, we hope, will make a modest start toward establishing a national policy under which our children will not be permitted to reach maturity with physical or mental defects."

He asserted that Federal aid in education must not entail, in any form, interference or dictation from Washington; that Federal contributions must never become so extensive or so taken for granted that education becomes wholly dependent on the national Government and that scientists and educators on federally assisted research projects must have complete freedom in their work.

AFL MUSICIANS PLANNING 187 FREE PERFORMANCES

New York City.—Details of the free concerts here planned by Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL) for hospitals, schools and institutions for the aged have been made public. The concerts are being financed from $101,000 collected by the AFL group through its "canned" music royalty fund.

A total of 187 musical performances, including five symphonic concerts in public schools, will be given during the next six weeks, the union announced. Among the hospitals and institutions included in the program are Montefiore Hospital, the Home for Incurables, the House of Calvary and the Andrew Freedman Home for the Aged in the Bronx; the City Farm and Seaview Hospital in Staten Island, the City Home and the Goldwater Memorial Hospital on Welfare Island and the Manhattan State Hospital on Wards Island.

MORTGAGE APPEALS TO FHA AT RECORD HIGH IN APRIL

Washington, D. C.—Setting a record, applications for FHA mortgage insurance climbed to 52,950 dwelling units during April, Commissioner Raymond M. Foley said. This is a new postwar record and indicates continued active housing construction in the next several weeks, he explained, as actual construction usually follows the applications within a fairly short period.

Of the new-home applications received during April by FHA field offices, 14,313 units were to be in multi-family rental housing projects. The others were to be houses for one to four families.

During the first four months of this year, applications on multi-family rental housing projects covered 36,298 new dwelling units, close to a third of the total of 116,095 new units of all types to be financed through these applications under the FHA program.

ANTIOCH POWER GRANTS UMW FURTHER BENEFITS

Indianapolis, Ind.—District 50 of the United Mine Workers (AFL) has signed a new contract with employes of the Antioch Power Co., Inc., here, granting wage increases of seven cents an hour across-the-board; shift premium of five cents an hour, six paid holidays; the company to pay for the cost of a telephone in an employe's home where he is liable to be called for emergency work; $25 bonus at Christmas for all employes of more than two years' service; one week's vacation after a year of employment, two weeks after two years; employes entering the armed forces to receive two weeks' pay and the families of men killed while in the armed services to receive two weeks' pay and men transferred, even temporarily, to higher rated jobs, to receive pay at the higher rate.

Green Appeals to All Unions to Fight For Truman Health-Insurance Plan

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green called upon all members of the organization for vigorous support of the National Health Insurance and Public Health Bill, sponsored by Senators Wagner (D) of New York and Murray (D) of Montana, as opposed to the legislation presented by Senator Taft (R) of Ohio, chairman of the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee.

While praising the plan introduced by such liberal Senators as Wagner and Murray, Mr. Green registered a sharp protest against the prepared schedule of hearings by the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee on health legislation. The labor leader demanded that American workers be given full time to be heard on this vital issue.

At the same time Nelson H. Cruikshank, AFL director of Social Security, charged the Senate Labor Sub-committee, which is holding the hearings, with grave unfairness in allocating four weeks to hearings on the Taft Health Bill, and only three days to the Wagner-Murray Health Bill, which is modeled along lines urged by President Truman and long advocated by the American Federation of Labor.

In a message to Senator Murray Mr. Green urged the Montanan, as a member of the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee, to insist upon the right of all interested groups to be heard on the Taft bill.

"The American Federation of Labor protests what appears to be the plan of the Senate Labor Sub-committee to confine hearings in the next four weeks to proponents of Senate bill 545 (the Taft bill). We wish to present our views on this measure as well as on health insurance," Mr. Green said.

In his message to State labor federations and central unions throughout the Nation, urging support of the Wagner-Murray health bill, Mr. Green said:

"This bill was drawn specifically to meet the recommendations of the 1946 convention of the American Federation of Labor. It is known as S. 1320.

"It is of the greatest importance that the organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor indicate their full support of this bill. It is equally important that you indicate your opposition to the Senate bill S. 545 introduced by Senators Taft, Smith, Ball and Donnell. This latter measure is based on the charity principle and would require each person to undergo a means test by a State agency in order to be eligible for any of its benefits."

Murray, at a meeting of the Senate Labor Committee, denounced the Taft Bill as "odious" and "just another charity program."

"If the people were to accept this principle, which I am sure they will not, this bill would start us on the road to high appropriations from both Federal and State treasuries," he said. "This is the road to totalitarianism."

Flushed with anger, Taft retorted that Murray was using the committee only as a forum "for propaganda to present his own program."

"That is utterly false," Murray shouted.

Lashing out again, Taft declared that Murray had suppressed labor legislation when the Montanan was head of the committee.

This was vigorously denied by Senator Pepper (D) of Florida, who declared that under the Taft plan "a man either gets charity or nothing."

PULLMAN PORTERS HONOR LEADER OF AFL UNION

New York City.—A testimonial dinner honoring A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters (AFL), was given here at the Hotel Commodore. Mr. Randolph is also co-chairman of the National Council for a Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

The affair, over which Leon Henderson presided, was given under the auspices of the Reunion of Old-Timers, an organization of labor, liberal, religious and civic leaders.

Mr. Henderson paid tribute to Mr. Randolph "for the inspiration and leadership which he has given in the past quarter of a century to causes engaged in eliminating racial and religious bigotry, intolerance and injustice."

DIESEL ENGINES FAVORED FOR USE IN U. S. MINES

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Bureau of Mines has issued a bulletin proving that experience shows that mines can be made safer by using Diesel locomotives instead of engines powered by electricity. No fires, explosions or fatalities from poisonous gases have been caused by the use of Diesel locomotives in European coal mines so far as is known, while electric engines, which predominate in the United States, bring danger of contact with high voltage wires and fire from short circuits.

The use of Diesel locomotives, the report said, must be accompanied by sufficient ventilation to carry away exhaust fumes and safety devices to cool the exhaust gas and remove some of its toxics.

Punitive Labor Legislation Assailed By Green and Meany In Radio Talks

Secretary of A. F. of L. Challenges the Position of G. O. P. Labor Foes

Washington, D. C. — The attempt of Big Business and its Republican Congressional collaborators to sell the idea of "capital, government domination and control, as a means of industrial peace, is insulting to the intelligence of every American worker."

This was the firm declaration of AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany in a discussion on pending anti-labor legislation in a nation-wide address over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Co., in which he formally challenged assertions of Republican leaders that punitive labor legislation was a Republican Party mandate.

"Such a mandate has never been handed to the Republicans in our Congress," Mr. Meany assured the Nation.

Analyzing the anti-labor legislation, which is in conference at this time, Mr. Meany told the workers of America to disregard declarations of Senator Taft of Ohio and Representative Hartley, co-authors of the measure, that the Republican victories of last November constituted an order to crack down on unions and to place the entire organized labor movement in a straitjacket of punitive and restrictive legislation.

"We are told by the official spokesmen of the Republican Party in both Houses," Meany said, "that the prohibitions and restrictions on trade unions in the Taft-Hartley bills are in complete harmony with the labor policy of the Republican Party. These premises are completely false."

"Even a casual examination of the record gives the lie to any contention made that the Taft-Hartley NAM program of repression and restriction against labor represents the official policy of the Republican Party," Mr. Meany declared.

"Did Senator Taft, or any other responsible spokesman for the Republican Party, tell the voters that the Republican leadership in the Senate would write anti-labor laws along lines suggested by employers?" he asked.

"Senator Taft has admitted that his bill contains three-quarters of the matters strenuously pressed upon him by employers. He has refused to divulge the names of these employers.

"But I cannot recall the American voter being told prior to last November's election that employers were going to be allowed to dictate legislation to control the lives of workers. If there was a mandate to enact legislation such as that proposed by the Taft-Hartley program, it must have been a secret mandate. I am sure the great mass of the voters who went to the polls last election know nothing of any such mandate.

"There is evidence that the vote last year of the American electorate was a protest against the very type of regimentation and control which the Taft-Hartley Bill now seeks to impose on labor. It was a protest against the failure of the Administration and Congress to provide adequate housing so vitally needed by millions of Americans. It was a protest against the complete inability of Congress and the Administration to do anything when the country's meat producers went on strike against the American people. It was above all a protest against the higher and ever higher prices for the necessities of life that were daily reducing the real wages of those who work for wages.

"Now, let me take up the contention of Republican spokesmen in Congress that the Taft-Hartley anti-labor program represents the official policy of the Republican Party.

"I believe that this is of tremendous importance. Everyone who works for a living should understand the implications of this effort to convince the American people that the Republican leaders in Congress are following party policy when they attempt to place on the statute books, laws which would weaken and eventually destroy trade unions in this country. This contention is inherent in the position taken by Senator Taft. It is also found in the actions and statements of Speaker Martin and of Rep. Halleck, Republican floor leader. These last two gentlemen have not only placed the full weight of their official position in the party behind the Hartley Bill to enslave labor, but they have challenged the President of the United States to veto legislation of this type, if he dares.

"The question naturally arises—what is the labor policy of the Republican Party? Is it the policy of Messrs. Taft, Hartley and the NAM, or is it the policy laid down by the delegates attending the last National Republican Party convention in 1944?"

RETAIL WORKERS HELPED

Albany, N. Y.—A minimum wage of 52½ cents an hour, overtime rates, and other protective regulations for over 500,000 retail trades employes in New York State, have become mandatory.

AFL Protests Inspection Ban On French Zone In Germany

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor has registered stern protest with the French Government against French military authorities' refusal to permit its official representative to enter the French zone of Germany.

Matthew Woll, second vice-president of the AFL and chairman of its international labor relations department, cabled to Premier Paul Ramadier, calling attention "to an incident which, unless properly corrected, can only disturb existing cordial relations between American and French people in general and labor in particular."

The official reason assigned for the refusal of an entry permit to Henry Rutz, AFL representative, Mr. Woll said, was his distribution of an AFL publication, The International Free Trade Union News, "which criticized leaders of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor].

"The AFL has criticized and will continue to criticize any American, French or other organizations with which it disagrees," Mr. Woll said. "We have not denied the CGT the right to criticize us and its Communist official, M. Benoit Frachon, has even threatened the life of AFL European representative Irving Brown if he established an office in Paris. Despite these slanders and threats against American labor by Franchon and [Louis] Saillant [secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions] the AFL has never sought to prevent them from touring the American zone."

It was recalled that a recent report of an AFL mission to Germany, headed by William C. Doherty, President of the Letter Carriers, concluded with this statement:

"The Commission declined to visit the French zone of occupation because its members were refused French permission to visit and confer with German workers at Mainz on November 7-8, 1946."

U. S. Labor Report Paints Glum Picture Of Job Outlook for Balance of Year

Washington, D. C.—Total jobs are still at record levels, considering seasonal factors, but the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics took a dim view of the employment situation in its latest survey of the Nation and all factors concerned.

A drop in manufacturing employment, coupled with "a disappointing rise" in the number of workers employed in construction in April, "point to soft spots in our economy which will need careful watching."

This was the conclusion of Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, in his monthly employment review.

Clague emphasized that the layoffs of workers in manufacturing industries was only slight—140,000 persons—but it was the first decline since the reconversion low point in February, 1948. The cutback was mainly in "soft goods" lines—textiles, clothing, luxuries, etc.

But, coupled with this, Clague noted, "construction activity, which had been counted on to bolster employment later this year as weakness developed in soft goods lines, showed only a moderate seasonal increase, rather than the hoped-for sharper gains."

The BLS disclosed that in April, 62,000 new permanent dwelling units were started. This was 8000 more than in March, but 4000 below the number started in April a year ago. This April was the third month this year in which the number of starts fell below the figures for comparable months last year.

The increase from March to April, Clague said, was "at best" only the normal spring upturn. "Resistance to high prices appears to have been the most important factor currently dampening the rise," he remarked.

On the basis of his figures, Clague declined to forecast a business recession, but he did admit to newsmen that the country has reached a crest of employment, which may now be expected to level off.

So far, he said, the signs do not point to a downturn, but they indicate that further employment increases, except for seasonal ones, cannot be expected. Employment, regardless of seasonal factors, had been steadily rising for the last 13 months.

Non-farm employment, the BLS reported, was 41,708,000 in April, as compared with 42,066,000 the previous month. The unemployment effect was characterized as "very mild" and felt only in a few areas, notably New York, New England and some of the South Atlantic States. These are the "soft goods" centers.

The declines were in textiles, apparel, tobacco, leather and rubber. The only industry to report a large gain in employment was lumber.

There was little change in the number of unemployed, the BLS said. It has been running at slightly less than 2½ million. This is "near the minimum generally considered unavoidable in an economy where people are free to change jobs."

Turnover in employment, measured by hirings and quittings, was at a postwar low level in April, the BLS found. Most plants, it said, are now fully staffed and some are even curtailing operations. Meantime, the number of workers voluntarily leaving their jobs has tended to decrease.

Clague pointed out that employment in the construction industry is at a high record of 1,660,000, or 300,000 more than a year ago. But he admitted this could be explained by the high level of starts late last year, which are now being completed. He also agreed that the lower number of starts this spring could be reflected later in a decline in construction employment from present levels.

Green Urges All AFL State Groups To Assist In Placing of Handicapped

Washington, D. C.—A strong plea that all State Federations of Labor exert every effort to obtain establishment of special State departments for promotion of work opportunities for the physically handicapped was made by AFL President William Green in a message to all State groups.

The letter pointed out the deep interest the American Federation of Labor has shown over a long period of years in the problem of training and placing physically-handicapped persons, and its full cooperation with programs of this nature established by the Federal and many State governments, Mr. Green added:

"The American Federation of Labor cooperated fully with the Federal and State employment agencies in the achievement of this purpose. During the war period the employment service was administered by the Federal Government. Now the employment service has been returned to the States. For that reason I earnestly request that the officers of your State Federation of Labor confer with those in charge of the State employment service and arrange to cooperate and work with said agency fully and completely in all the efforts put forth to secure job placements for the physically handicapped.

"I sugest that efforts be put forth to create a department in the State employment service for the purpose of specializing in the promotion of work opportunities for those who are physically handicapped. This department in each State would devote its time and effort exclusively toward the creation of job placements for the physically handicapped.

"I respectfully request and urge that the officers of all State Federations of Labor confer with representatives of the employment service in each State requesting them to create a department within the State employment service, the objective of which will be to secure job placements for the physically handicapped.

"This would be a humane and noble purpose, the achievement of which should be sought earnestly by the officers and members of all State Federations of Labor."

CHEMICAL WORKERS GAIN

Montreal, Can.—A new contract between the employes of the Sherwin-Williams Co. and members of the International Chemical Workers Union (AFL) grants a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour retroactive three and one-half months; five cents an hour premium for afternoon and night shift; time and one-half for overtime or Sunday work; double time for work done on the seven paid holidays, and 1-5-25 years of employment, 1-2-3 weeks' vacation, respectively.

CLERKS SIGN NEW CONTRACT

Oswego, N. Y.—Office Employes International Union (AFL) members here have been awarded a new contract with employes of the Pierce Butler Radiator Corp. Wage increases ranging up to 12 cents an hour and retroactive to Oct. 16, 1944, have been granted all office employes, and an eight-hour day, 40-hour week, time-and-a-half for Saturday work and double-time for Sundays, are now features of the contract.

AFL Leader Smothers Anti-Labor Arguments Made by NAM Chief

Washington, D. C. — Points raised by Earl Bunting, President of the National Association of Manufacturers, in favor of the vicious anti-labor legislation pending in Congress were completely smothered by AFL President William Green in a dramatic Nation-wide debate over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Taking up the points raised by Mr. Bunting, Mr. Green told the Nation:

"The National Association of Manufacturers is an organization dominated by the most reactionary, labor-hating interests in America. It is the real sponsor of the slave-labor provisions of the Taft-Hartley Bill. Let me cite a few of the black spots in the NAM's record:

"The NAM opposed the Child Labor Amendment, because in taking children out of school and putting them to work in factories, certain employers can cut wage costs. Isn't that a noble position?

"The NAM opposed Social Security, bank deposit insurance, the Wage-Hour Act and the whole body of social justice legislation intended to make life a little better and safer for the great masses of the American people.

"Less than a year ago the NAM promised that prices would be reduced if only price controls were killed—and then its members proceeded to make a killing at the expense of the American people.

"Today the NAM opposes legislation to provide millions of new homes for veterans and workers and instead it demands the abolition of rent control, a step which would subject every family living in a rented house or apartment to the mercies of profiteering landlords.

"This organization—the NAM—that has consistently fought in the past against every decent measure to protect the public welfare and is still battling against such measures, now has the effrontery to claim that the anti-labor legislation which it actively sponsors will serve the public welfare!

"In view of the record, I think the American people have a right to view with suspicion anything that the NAM stands for.

"Mr. Bunting, the President of the NAM, has challenged me to answer two questions in this debate and I am more than glad to do so.

"First, he asks, 'Is one legitimate gain of labor denied in the proposed legislation?'

"That question is almost childish. Congressman Hartley admits that his bill virtually repeals the National Labor Relations Act, which is labor's Magna Carta. Senator Taft admits that his bill has rewritten the National Labor Relations Act from beginning to end. These provisions alone distort and destroy the whole basis of free collective bargaining. For instance, Senator Taft's bill permits employers to say 'No' and keep on saying 'No' to all union proposals instead of requiring them to sit down and try to reach a friendly and cooperative agreement with the representatives of their workers. How could collective bargaining operate on such a basis?

"Further than that, the Taft-Hartley program is aimed at destroying union security. It opens the doors wide to a flood of damage suits in the courts against unions. This would make it impossible for them to function effectively. It provides for a return of Government by injunction. That would compel free American citizens to work against their will for private employers or face imprisonment. If these and many other provisions do not destroy the legitimate and basic rights of labor, as well as its recent gains, I would like to know what would.

"Secondly, Mr. Bunting asks: 'Do the proposals in this legislation serve the public welfare?'

"Emphatically, they do not. Many years ago Abraham Lincoln said 'Whatever hurts labor hurts the nation.' That wise statement is just as true today. Everyone who works for a living is labor. Whatever hurts labor, hurts them. The transparent attempt to separate the identity of labor and the public, which is fostered by the NAM's propaganda campaign, is designed to hoodwink the American people. Organized labor represents directly some 15 million union members and their families. Indirectly, it represents and speaks for another 45 million workers as yet unorganized. You can't hurt 60 million Americans with punitive legislation without striking a damaging blow against the public welfare.

"God help America when the NAM is to be the final judge of what constitutes the public welfare!"